

speeches: "In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all."

HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, I rise with sadness today to honor Albin Gruhn of San Anselmo, California, who passed away March 18 at the age of 94. Mr. Gruhn was a respected and beloved labor leader and consumer rights activist whose calling was the welfare of the working people of California. His 36 years as president of the California Labor Federation and his role as a founder of the Association of California Consumers were at the heart of a remarkable career.

Mr. Gruhn was born in Eureka, California, in 1915. At the age of 19 he began working for the Hammond Lumber Co. where he joined the Sawmill and Loggers Federal Union. A strike shortly afterwards resulted in the deaths of three union picketers and deeply affected him, resulting in a life-long commitment to the labor movement.

He was also blacklisted as a result of his participation in the strike but soon found employment in construction, joining the Laborers Local where his membership continued for over 60 years. At the age of 22, he became secretary of the Central Labor Council of Humboldt and Del Norte Counties and led that council for over 20 years.

In 1940 Mr. Gruhn was first elected to what is now the California Labor Federation as district vice president and became its president in 1960. He led with skill, enthusiasm, and passion until his retirement in 1996. He helped build the organization into a strong and effective advocacy group for the rights of workers, inspiring several generations of political and labor leaders along the way.

During the 1960s, Mr. Gruhn was also a founder of the Association of California Consumers, California's first consumer group, and later became a founding officer and then president emeritus of the Consumer Federation of California. He also devoted some of his considerable energies to the California Apprenticeship Council and the California Constitution Revision Commission as well as serving on various state commissions. These were appointments over the decades by five California governors and covered a variety of issues from fair housing to air pollution. One of the commissions dealt with children and youth, reflecting his deep involvement in the annual scholarship program established by the California Labor Federation.

Mr. Gruhn was always politically active as a means of supporting the causes he believed in. From campaigning for Franklin Roosevelt at the age of 17 to serving as an Adlai Stevenson delegate in 1956, he stayed engaged in the process. In 1944, he founded the Northern California AFL Political League.

Mr. Gruhn was married to the former Dorothy Coon for over 37 years. Dorothy predeceased him in 2005, and the couple are survived by a large family of eight children, 14 grandchildren, and 17 great grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, Albin Gruhn was proud to fight for working people, and all those with

whom he came in contact—from family and friends to political leaders and co-workers—drew inspiration from his commitment. It is fitting in honoring him today to remember the remarks he always used to conclude his labor speeches: "In unity there is strength. United we stand, divided we fall. An injury to one is an injury to all."

HONORING ALBIN GRUHN

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OF CALIFORNIA

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TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me as I rise to commend Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn, New Jersey on its groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, April 26, 2009. Congregation B'nai Israel, under the leadership of Rabbi Steven Bayar decided to commit to an over six million dollar renovation project in spite of the tenuous economy and worrisome financial markets.

Congregation B'nai Israel is blessed to have financial commitments of \$5.2 million from its members for this important project. The most significant part of the renovation will be a new, two story building for B'nai Israel's nursery and religious school. Fortunately, the decision to go ahead with the renovation will guarantee jobs for local construction crews and a revenue stream for suppliers of building materials.

It is a pleasure for me to celebrate with the members of Congregation B'nai Israel, Rabbi Bayar, Mayor Sandra Haimoff and others as they take this leap of faith in moving forward with the project. This initiative will serve as a model to other entities that may be contemplating similar projects but have been reluctant to proceed in today's challenging economic times. It is this kind of dedication and steadfastness that will help propel our Nation forward and bring us back to a sense of prosperity and hopefulness.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues agree that Congregation B'nai Israel has made the right decision in continuing with its renovation project and demonstrating its faith to the community it serves. I am pleased to recognize Congregation B'nai Israel and proud to have it in my Congressional District.

RECOGNITION FOR HISTORICAL SOLDIERS' RELOCATION PROJECT

HON. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. GIFFORDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reaffirm a sacred principle that has guided and inspired our Armed Forces for more than two centuries. That principle—